



## *House of Representatives*

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### STANDING COMMITTEES:

RULES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
MINORITY CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

May 25, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to you as the Immediate Past President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and the Dean of the Georgia House of Representatives. As a 37-year legislative veteran of the House, I serve on the Appropriations Committee, Rules Committee, Higher Education Committee, Ethics Committee and as Chairman Emeritus of the House Minority Caucus.

Over the years, I have served my community and constituents in many capacities. My work as Chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, Chairman of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, Chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party and a former member of the Democratic National Committee have given me a keen appreciation for the interests of minority, urban and rural communities. It is because of my dedication and ongoing concern for these various communities that I write this letter today in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

AT&T has a long history of supporting diversity both in the company's workforce and its corporate social responsibility relationships. In fact, a sizable portion of its U.S. workforce and 30% management positions are filled by minorities. The company is one of only 17 US companies that spends more than \$1 billion a year with diversity suppliers. This strong record speaks for itself, and I am confident that the acquisition of T-Mobile by AT&T will enhance that record of community involvement and diversity.

Our modern economy and demand for technology and high-speed wireless services are vital to stay competitive in the global environment called the business world. Digital connectivity is a valuable asset, which must be made available to everyone so no one is left behind. The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will improve the coverage, reliability and speed of our mobile broadband networks, leading to more opportunities for American's citizens.

Chairman Julius Genachowski

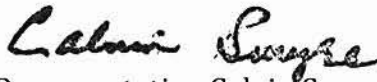
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I started my career as a community organizer and I care deeply about the viability of communities, both in Georgia and throughout the United States. Expanded high-speed wireless broadband coverage and deployment will help enable rural and smaller communities take advantage of the many social and economic opportunities afforded by Internet access. From distance learning programs and online classes to telecommuting and telework opportunities to voter outreach and citizen engagement initiatives, broadband connections can connect our communities and bolster our businesses – helping our nation to thrive.

The associated benefits of expanded broadband coverage, which the approval of this merger promises to provide, are many and varied. I have mentioned only a small number of these in this letter of support, but for these reasons alone the merger would be worthy of your consideration and support. With this in mind, I encourage you to act in the interests of the diversity community as well as small towns and rural areas by approving the proposed acquisition of T-Mobile by AT&T.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin Smyre".

Representative Calvin Smyre, Immediate Past President  
National Black Caucus of State Legislators

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker